

manufacturing center. Population increased by 70% between 1900 and 1910. The tobacco markets grew, causing an expansion and growth of retail, wholesale and service trades. From 1910 to 1920 Kinston's population increased 39%. From 1920 to 1940, population increased approximately 55%. The 1920's and 1930's were times of depression; in these and post war days, however, Kinston still grew in population. Increases in population resulted when people moved from rural areas to find work in Kinston, and when annexation of surrounding areas was accomplished. From 1950 to 1960 Kinston reflected an increase in population of 34% over the previous decade.

The 1970 census has reflected an unusual 10% decrease in population for Kinston, although the change may not be unusual when certain factors are considered. Many cities throughout the nation and state, had decreases in population during this decade. (Table 1 reflects a population decline in two other nearby cities.) No one reason can be selected as being the reason for a decline in population for Kinston; a combination of reasons or factors must be considered. One combination of factors to be noted is the decline in population in the under five years of age category. This decline is reflected in both the white and non-white male and female population. To further examine this decline, it is noted that the child population expansion ratio is .840 for Kinston. This ratio should be 1.000 or very near 1.000 for a population that is replacing itself. The .840 child population expansion ratio for Kinston could be caused by the increased emphasis on birth control and the cost of rearing and educating children.